REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

> Respectfully submitted, MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 (612) 332-5300

Dated: September 12, 2002

JJG:hb